



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	2/22/08	Interpretation	07-121
Topic	Public Schools Automatic Fire System		
Code Section(s)	2001 Ca. Fire Code 1006.2.4.4.1 (Nov. 15 2002 Supplement)		
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### **Code interpretation for Group E Occupancies.**

#### **1006.2.4.4.1 New Public Schools**

**This section states that there shall be the installation of a new automatic fire system. The approved system is to be both automatic and manual. It then states that at least one manual box shall be installed for the purpose of manually initiating the fire system.**

#### **1. What would qualify for an automatic system? Would this be either a sprinkler system monitored by the fire panel, or a smoke detection system?**

A. The sprinkler system monitored by a sprinkler monitoring panel only does not constitute an automatic fire alarm system per 2001 CFC 1006.2.4.4.1.

B. A fire alarm system with smoke detection and/or heat detection initiating devices installed in accordance with 1006.2.4.2.2.1, notification appliances throughout and a manual fire alarm box would comply with 2001 CBC 1006.2.4.4.1.

#### **2. If the system is required to be a manual system, why does the code section specify that at least one pull station must be installed?**

2002 NFPA 72 Section 6.8.5.1.2. Requires fire alarm systems employing automatic fire detectors or water flow detection devices to include at least one

fire alarm box. This section correlates with the California Educational Code Section 17074.52 (d) which states “except as required for automatic fire detectors and water flow detection devices, the manual fire alarm boxes shall not be required throughout the school buildings.” The intent is to require automatic detection, with the provision for manual activation of the system for testing and for conducting fire evacuation drills required by other state statutes. The manual fire alarm pull box is usually located in the main administration building – or as determined by the AHJ.

**2001 CFC 1006.2.4.4.2 (Nov. 15, 2002 Supplement) Modernization Project**

**This section states that the approved fire alarm system shall be both automatic and manual. It then states that manual fire boxes are not required throughout the modernization project.**

**1. What would qualify for an automatic system? Would this be either a sprinkler system monitored by the fire panel, or a smoke detection system?**

A. The sprinkler system monitored by a sprinkler monitoring panel only does not constitute an automatic fire alarm system per 2001 CBC 1006.2.4.4.2.

B. A fire alarm system with smoke detection and/or heat detection initiating devices installed in accordance with 1006.2.4.2.2.1, notification appliances throughout and a manual fire alarm box would comply with 2001 CBC 1006.2.4.4.2.

**2. If the system is required to be a manual system, why does the code section state that manual fire alarm boxes are not required throughout the project?**

2001 CBC Section 1006.2.4.4.2 states when an automatic fire alarm system is installed in accordance with this section, only one manual fire alarm box is required.